

IF THE DEVIL WOULD TALK



I AM THE PRINCE OF HATE.
 I HATE GOD, AND BECAUSE I HATE
 GOD, I HATE ALL THAT HE HAS MADE!
 I HATE MYSELF! I HATE THE WORLD!
 I HATE MAN!
 I HAVE BROUGHT RUIN ON MYSELF,
 AND I DESIRE NOTHING MORE THAN
 TO BRING SIMILAR RUIN—ETERNAL
 RUIN—ON EVERY MAN!
 I CAN NEVER WIN ALL SOULS. BUT I
 AM NOT WITHOUT SUCCESS! I
 AM WINNING MANY OF THEM.

I HAVE FORGED A WEAPON. IT IS
 MORE TERRIBLE THAN THE ATOM
 BOMB, MORE DESTRUCTIVE THAN
 THE HYDROGEN BOMB.
 THESE BOMBS CAN DESTROY MAN'S
 BODY. MY WEAPON BLASTS HIS
 SOUL—HIS MIND—HIS SPIRIT.
 MY ENEMIES HAVE CALLED IT
 SECULARISM—FROM SAECULUM,
 THE LATIN WORD FOR WORLD.

IT IS AN ATTITUDE, A
 PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE, A
 WAY OF THINKING, SPEAKING AND
 ACTING WHICH MAKES THE THINGS
 OF THIS WORLD MORE IMPORTANT
 THAN THE THINGS OF GOD.



PUBLISHED BY

TOPIX

THE RELIGION TEACHING AID IN COMIC BOOK FORMAT • 147 E. FIFTH ST., ST. PAUL, MINN.

Script: The Rev. Demetrius Manousos, O.F.M., Cap.

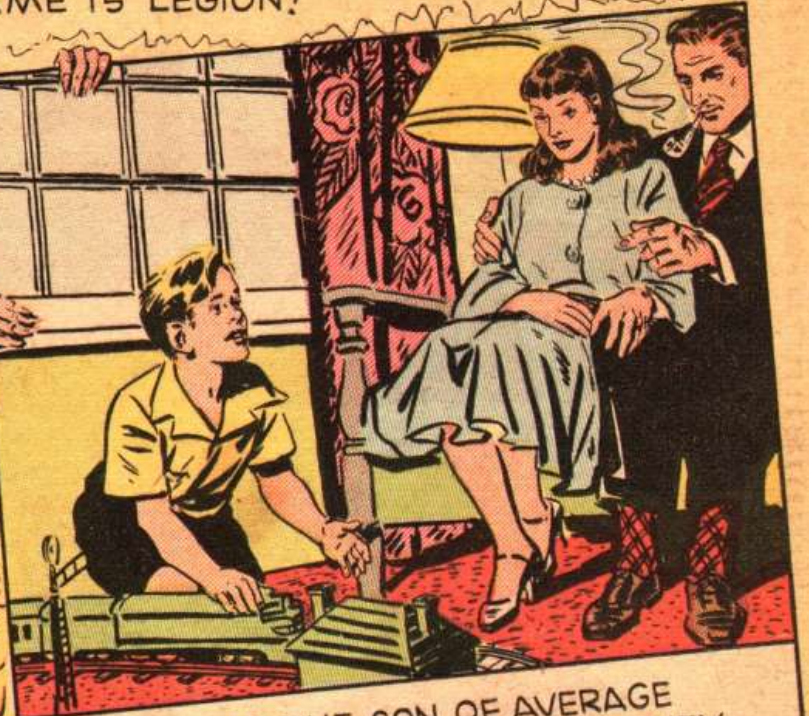
Artist: Addison Burbank

Copyright 1950,

Catechetical Guild,

Saint Paul, Minnesota

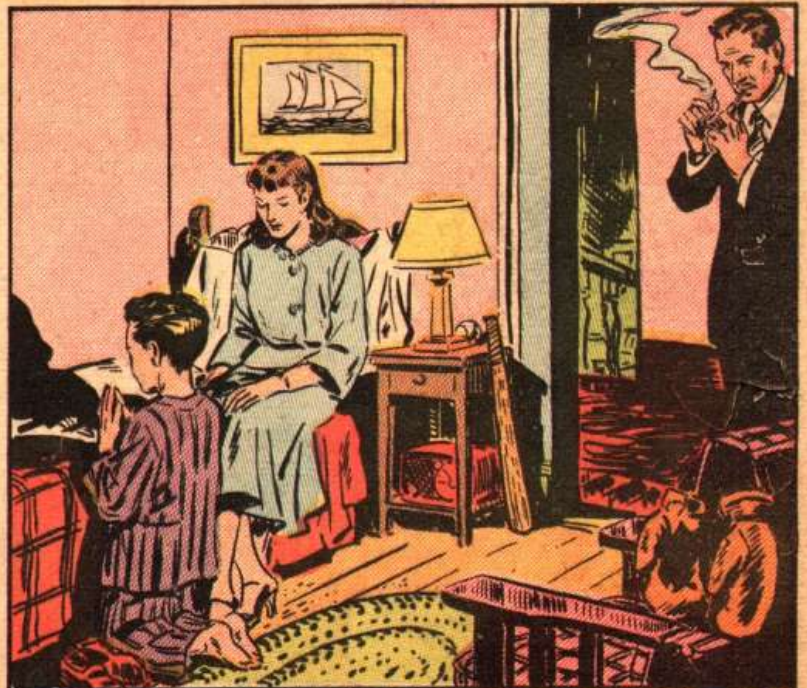
HOW DOES MY WEAPON WORK? WHERE DOES IT SHOW ITSELF? LET ME SHOW YOU A STORY. IT IS REALLY THE STORY OF MANY MEN, OF THOUSANDS TODAY. I HAVE MADE IT THE STORY OF ONE MAN — BUT HIS NAME IS LEGION!



LEGION WAS THE SON OF AVERAGE PARENTS IN A MODERN WORLD. THEY PAID THEIR INCOME TAX. THEY LIKED MOVIES AND BASEBALL AND COMFORT.



THEY WENT TO CHURCH ON SUNDAYS AND CONTRIBUTED TO CHARITABLE DRIVES AND RELIEF MEASURES.



THEY EVEN TAUGHT THEIR BOY TO SAY HIS PRAYERS, AND THEY SCOLDED HIM WHEN HE DID WRONG.

AND STILL
ANY REAL
TEST SHOWED
THAT GOD CAME
SECOND WITH
THEM...



MOTHER,
WHY HAVEN'T
I ANY BROTHERS
AND SISTERS?

WELL, DEAR,
SOME PEOPLE
HAVE AND SOME
PEOPLE HAVEN'T.
NOW RUN ALONG
TO BED—



JOHN, WE
COULD HAVE
MORE
CHILDREN
IF WE
WANTED
TO.

CHILDREN
COST
MONEY.



I KNOW, BUT AFTER WHAT WE
HEARD IN CHURCH ABOUT
HOW SINFUL—

LISTEN.
WE'RE NOT RICH,
ARE WE? AND YOUR
HEALTH ISN'T TOO
GOOD, IS IT?



NO, BUT—

BESIDES, WE
NEED A NEW
CAR AND WE'RE
STILL PAYING
ON THE
HOUSE.



I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
WE HAVE TO THINK OF
ALL THOSE THINGS.

SURE, WE
DO. SOMETIME
WE CAN THINK ABOUT
ANOTHER BABY.
BUT FIRST
THINGS FIRST!





SO GOD IS NOT
FIRST! ONCE
THAT IS
ESTABLISHED,
THE REST IS
EASY.
WATCH!



TWO YEARS LATER—

MOM, WHY ISN'T
DAD HOME YET?

I DON'T
KNOW. YOU
GO TO BED.



I DON'T KNOW,
BUT I'M GOING TO
FIND OUT! IF HE'S
WHERE I THINK
HE IS—

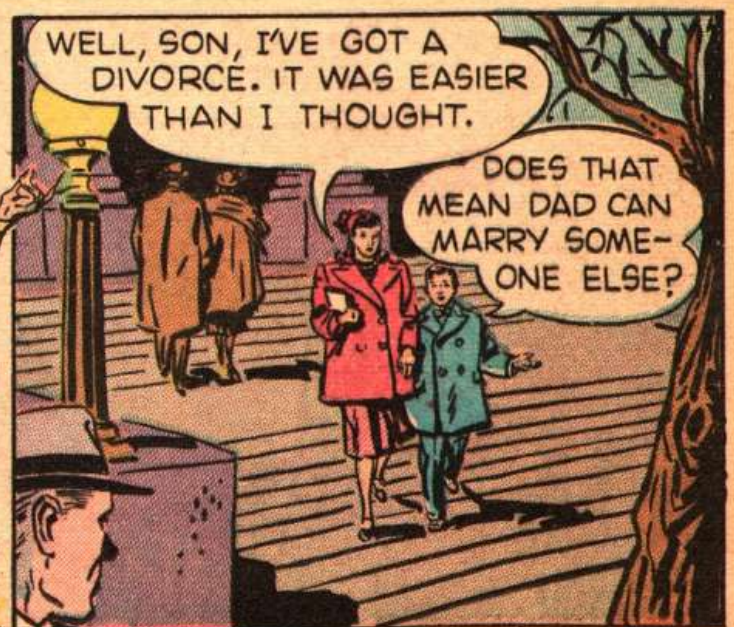


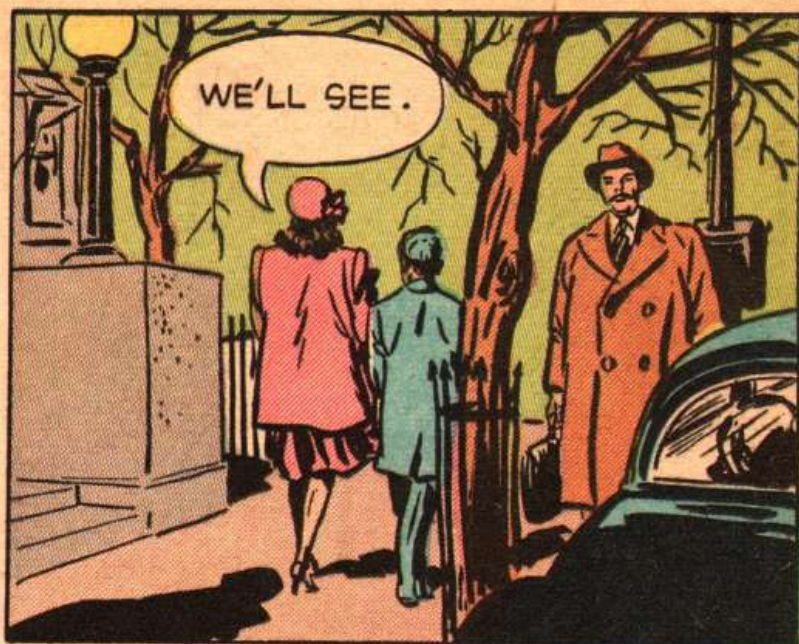
DID YOU SEE
MR.— NEVER MIND.
I SEE HIM.



WHO'S
THIS?

DEAR! WHAT
ARE YOU DOING
HERE?







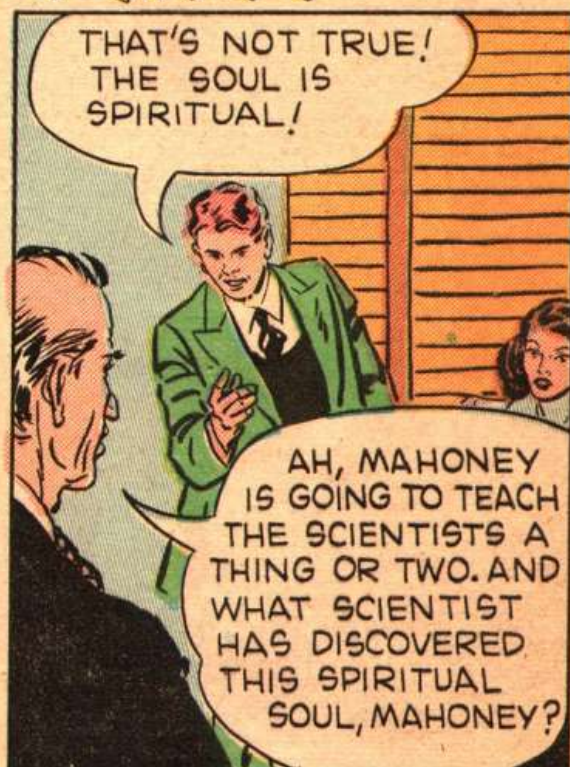




I'VE BEEN WORKING ON SCHOLARS FOR SIX CENTURIES—FIRST MAKING MAN'S THOUGHT MORE IMPORTANT THAN GOD'S REVELATION—THEN BLINDING PHILOSOPHERS TO THE REALITY OF GOD'S TEACHING—FINALLY COAXING THEM TO DENY THE WHOLE WORLD OF THE SPIRIT! IT'S EASY TO TRIP UP THE THINKERS ONCE THEY PUT THEIR OWN MINDS IN THE PLACE OF GOD'S. AND EVERY ERROR OF THE PHILOSOPHERS EVENTUALLY FILTERS DOWN TO THE PEOPLE THROUGH SCHOOLS, PRESS, AND ENTERTAINMENT.



SINCE SCIENCE HAS ESTABLISHED THAT MAN IS A HIGHER ANIMAL, EVOLVED LIKE OTHER ANIMALS FROM A COMMON ANCESTOR, THEN IT'S CLEAR: WHAT USED TO BE CALLED MAN'S SOUL IS MERELY A HIGHER-CLASS BRAIN.



THAT'S NOT TRUE! THE SOUL IS SPIRITUAL!

AH, MAHONEY IS GOING TO TEACH THE SCIENTISTS A THING OR TWO. AND WHAT SCIENTIST HAS DISCOVERED THIS SPIRITUAL SOUL, MAHONEY?



WELL—WELL, SCIENTISTS CAN'T DISCOVER IT.



POOR MAHONEY, YOU'RE LIVING IN ANOTHER CENTURY.

JUST BECAUSE I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT, THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M WRONG!



I SHOOK MAHONEY'S FAITH, BUT I COULDN'T WRECK IT. HE LEFT HIGH SCHOOL TOO SOON—WENT TO A SEMINARY. LEGION WENT ON TO COLLEGE WHERE IT WAS EASY FOR ME TO GET HIM TO DROP GOD FROM A SECOND PLACE IN HIS LIFE TO NO PLACE AT ALL. THEN, AFTER GRADUATING WITH HONORS—



SO YOU WANT A JOB IN THE THEATRICAL INDUSTRY, LEGION. WELL, YOUR COLLEGE CREDITS ARE CERTAINLY GOOD.

I'VE GOT A LOT OF IDEAS, TOO. GIVE ME A CHANCE AND I'LL PROVE I'M WORTH MONEY.



TWO YEARS LATER—

GOOD MORNING. MR. LEGION, I PRESUME?

THAT'S RIGHT—ASSISTANT MANAGER. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?



LOOK—BOTH YOUR FIRM AND MINE CAN'T EXIST IN THIS TOWN. THERE AREN'T THAT MANY THEATER-GOERS.

WE KNOW THAT, BUT WE THINK WE CAN HANG ON LONGER THAN YOU CAN.



SEE HERE. I'VE GOT AN OFFER. IF THIS FIRM COLLAPSES WITHIN SIX MONTHS, I'LL MAKE YOU FULL MANAGER AND PART OWNER OF MY ASSOCIATED THEATERS.

YOU WANT ME TO SABOTAGE MY OWN BOSS?



NO NEED TO PUT IT THAT CRUDELY. BUT ONE OF US HAS TO GIVE IN

I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT. WHY SHOULD I TAKE A RISK WHEN I CAN HAVE A SURE THING?



AGREED THEN?

RIGHT!
I'VE GOT TO
TAKE CARE
OF MY OWN
SKIN FIRST.



WHEN YOU PUT YOURSELF BEFORE GOD, THERE'S NO REASON TO GO BEHIND ANYONE ELSE. LEGION WENT FAR IN BUSINESS. HE WRECKED A LOT OF LITTLE BUSINESSES, BUT HE SOON HAD CONTROL OF A LARGE PART OF THEATER, RADIO, MOVIES AND TELEVISION.



IT LOOKS LIKE ALL OUR WEST-COAST STUDIOS ARE GOING TO BE TIED UP WITH THIS STRIKE.

WE'LL WIN. WE CAN FALL BACK ON OUR OTHER ENTERPRISES.



ALL THEY WANT IS A LIVING WAGE, THEY SAY.

THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF WAYS OF LIVING. I DON'T SEE WHY I HAVE TO MAKE A FEW THOUSAND PEOPLE COMFORTABLE.



THE PUBLIC MAY TURN AGAINST US.

WHEN THE PUBLIC FINDS THEIR THEATERS CLOSED, THEY'LL TURN AGAINST LABOR.



HE WON, ALL RIGHT. BUT DON'T WORRY, EVEN WHEN LEGION LOST, SECULARISM USUALLY WON. I HAVE MEN ON BOTH SIDES OF MOST ARGUMENTS. WITHOUT THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD, I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE BROTHERHOOD OF MEN.



GOOD AFTERNOON, MR. LEGION.



WHY, JACK MAHONEY! IT'S BEEN YEARS! HOW YOU DOING?

FINE! I'VE GOT A PARISH NOW. YOU'VE RISEN PRETTY FAST.



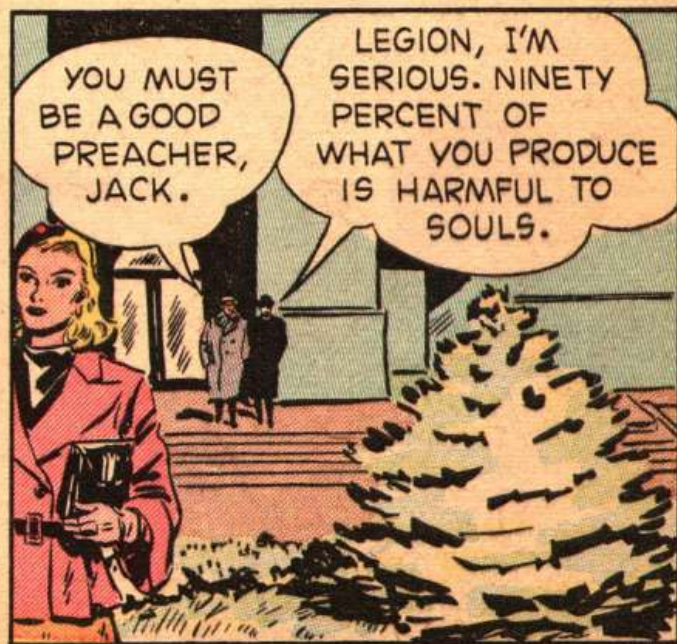
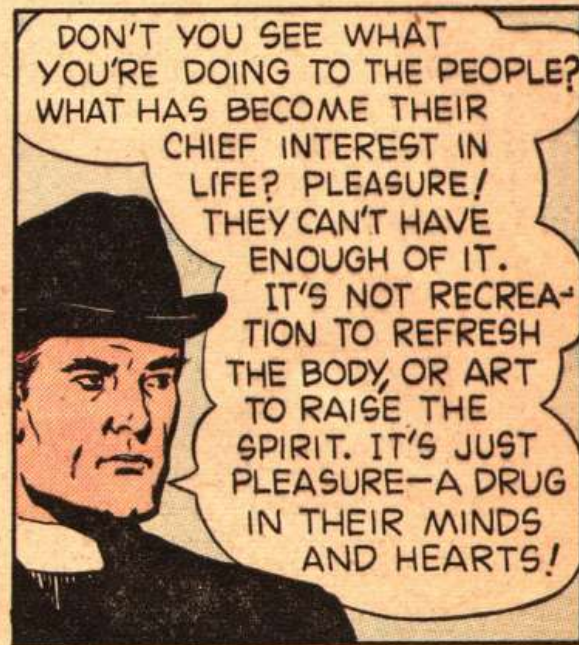
OH, I'VE DONE ALL RIGHT. WE'RE WORKING ON A SPECIAL SERIES OF FEATURES NOW. THEY OUGHT TO BE WORTH SEVERAL MILLION.

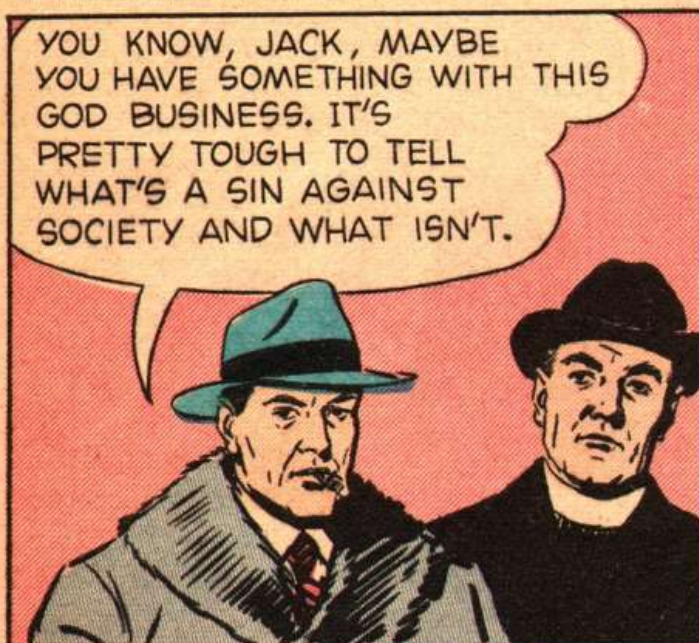
I'VE HEARD OF THEM. IN FACT, THAT'S WHY I'M HERE— TO TALK ABOUT THEM.



THEY'RE NOT VERY CLEAN, LEGION.

NOW LISTEN, JACK. I'M NOT RUNNING A CHURCH. I'M RUNNING THE LARGEST ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY IN THE COUNTRY. I GIVE THE PEOPLE WHAT THEY WANT.







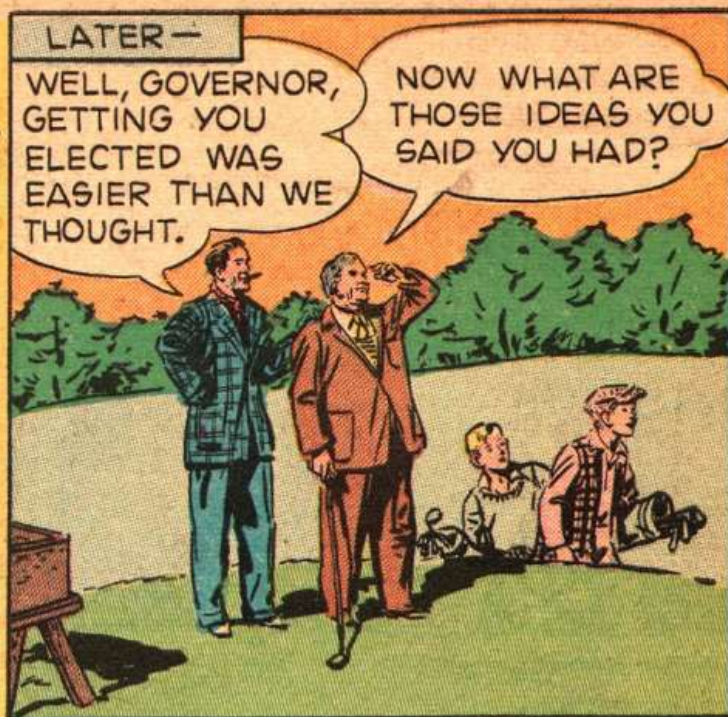
WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW, MY FRIEND, IS THAT I HAVE THOUSANDS WHO SAY THEY DO BELIEVE — BUT THEY ACT JUST LIKE YOU. SECULARISM ISN'T ONLY FOR THE ATHEIST. IT'S DEEP IN THE LIFE OF ANYONE WHO ACTS AS IF GOD WERE NOT FIRST AND ALL OTHER THINGS SECOND.







AS SOON AS I'VE
CONVINCED A
STRONG MAN THAT
HE NEEDS NO GOD
AND CAN RULE
HIS OWN DESTINY,
HE STARTS
DREAMING ABOUT
RULING THE
FATE OF
OTHERS.



LATER —

WELL, GOVERNOR,
GETTING YOU
ELECTED WAS
EASIER THAN WE
THOUGHT.

NOW WHAT ARE
THOSE IDEAS YOU
SAID YOU HAD?



HOW WOULD
YOU LIKE TO BE
PRESIDENT?

PRESIDENT?

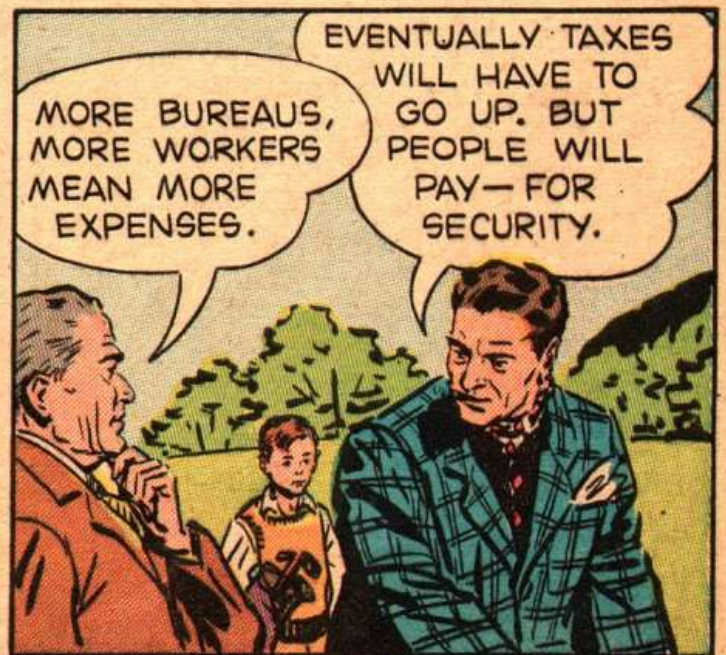


MORE THAN THAT—
PRESIDENT FOR LIFE!
AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE
SAID SOMETHING TO ME
SEVERAL MONTHS AGO
AND IT GOT ME
THINKING.



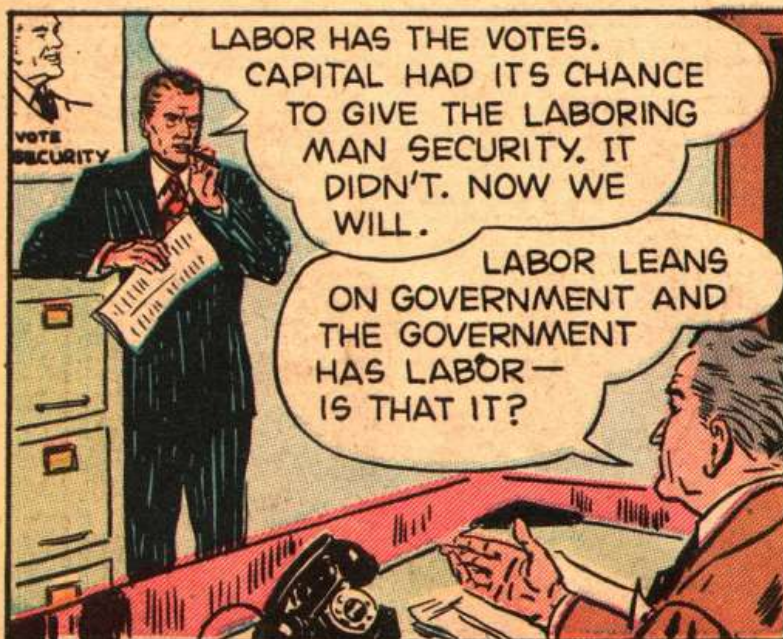
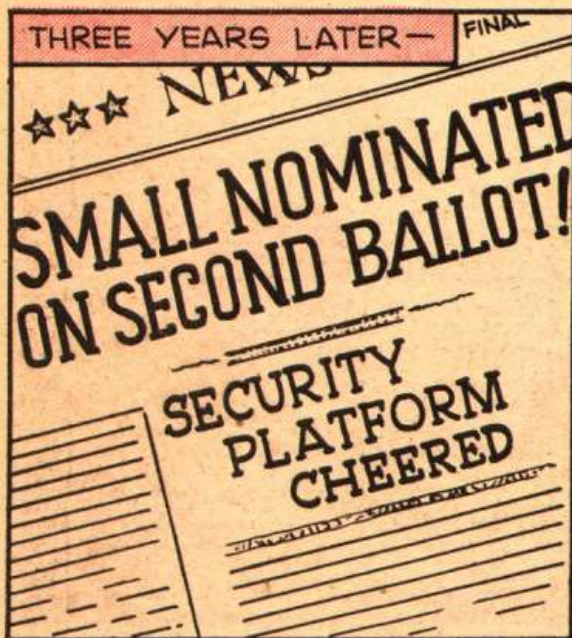
HE SAID THE PEOPLE
WERE BECOMING A
MOB OF PLEASURE
ADDICTS WORRIED
ONLY ABOUT
SECURITY.

WHAT DID
HE SAY?

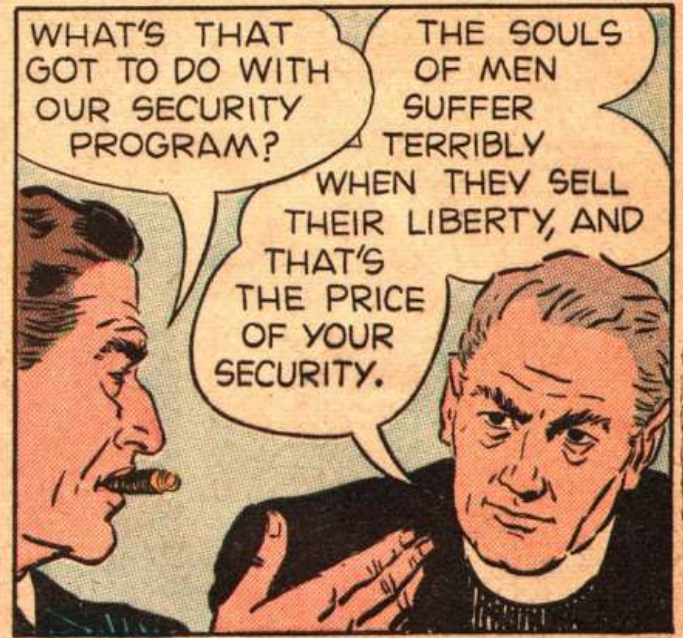
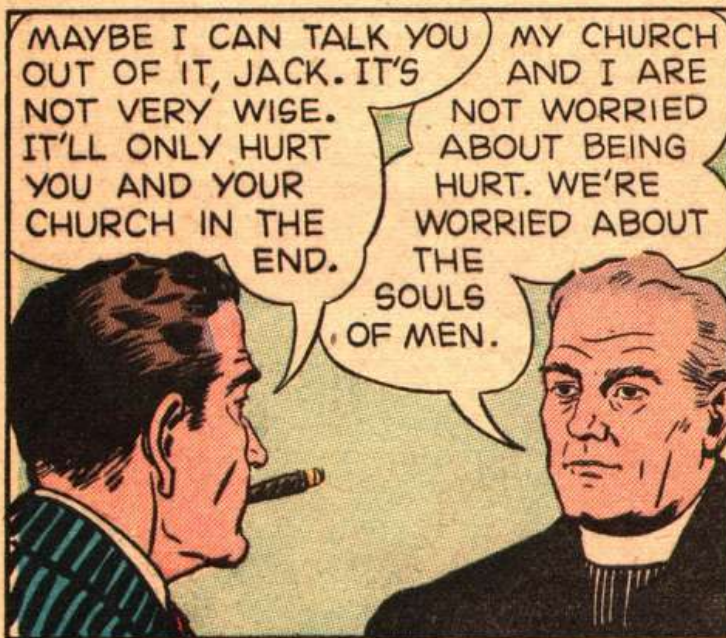


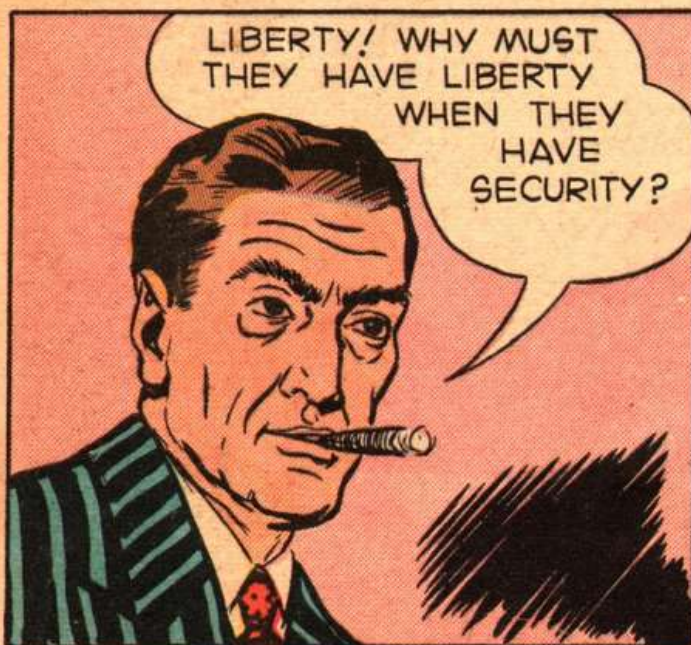
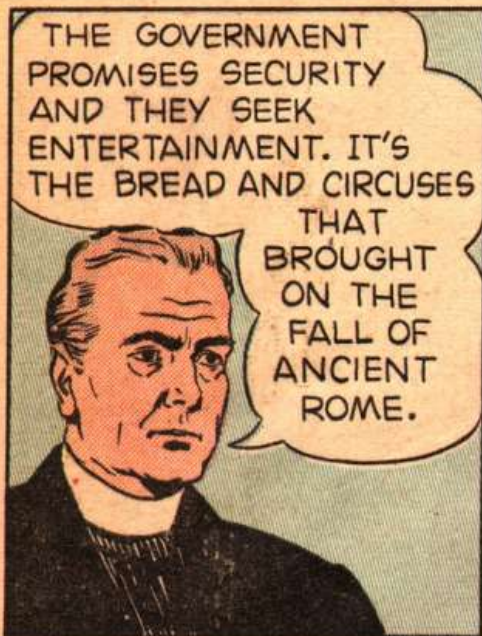
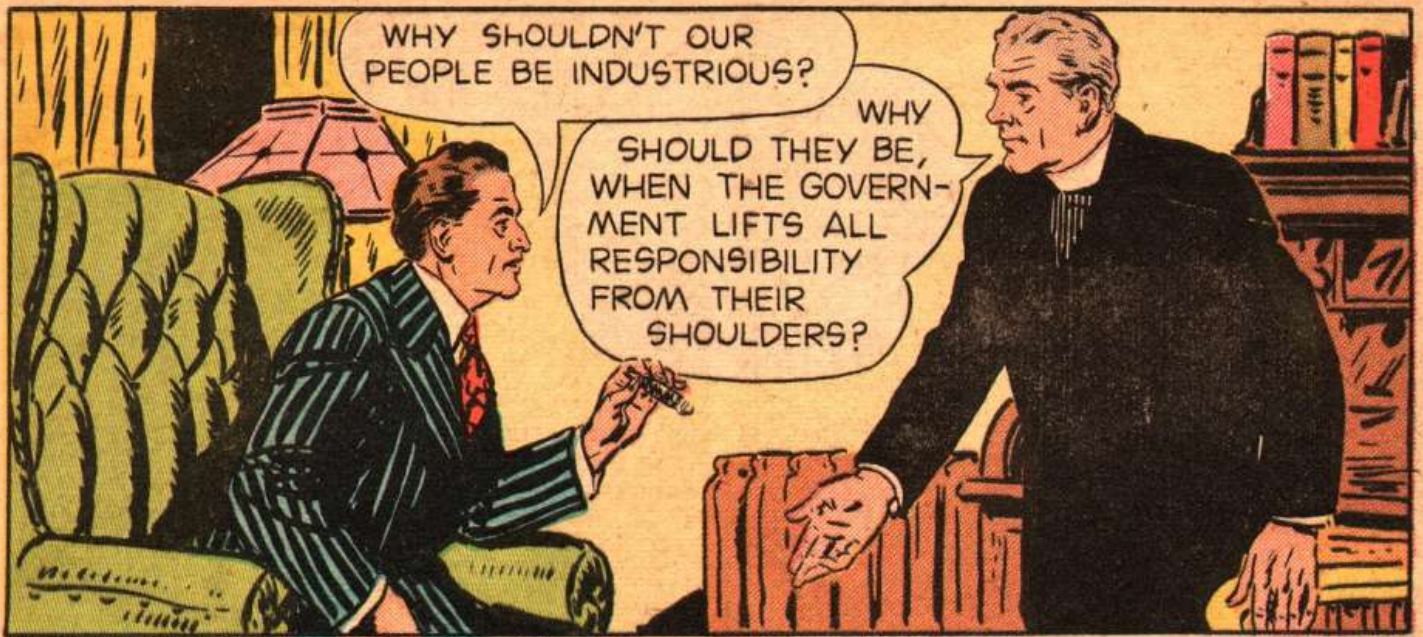


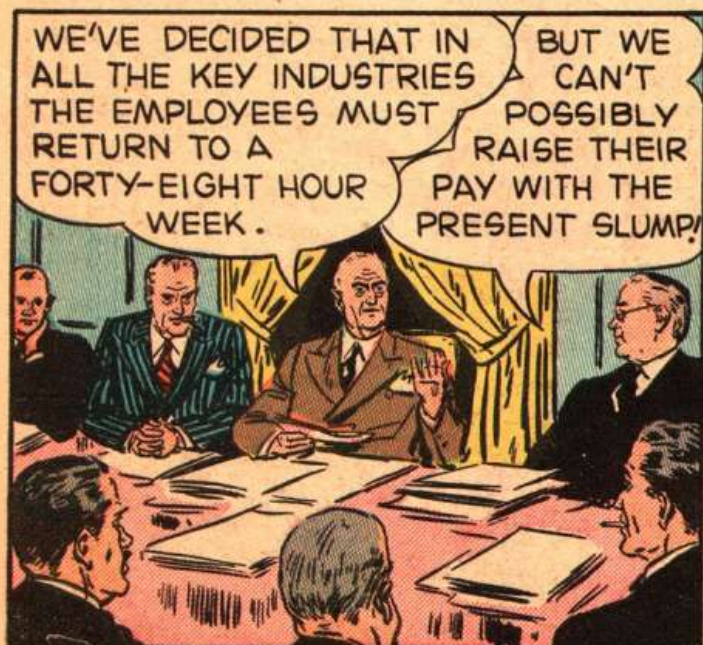
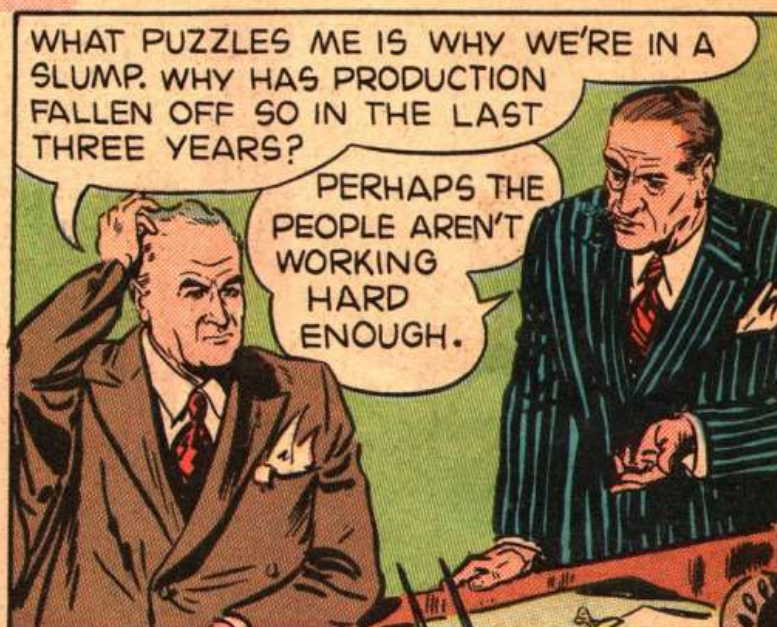
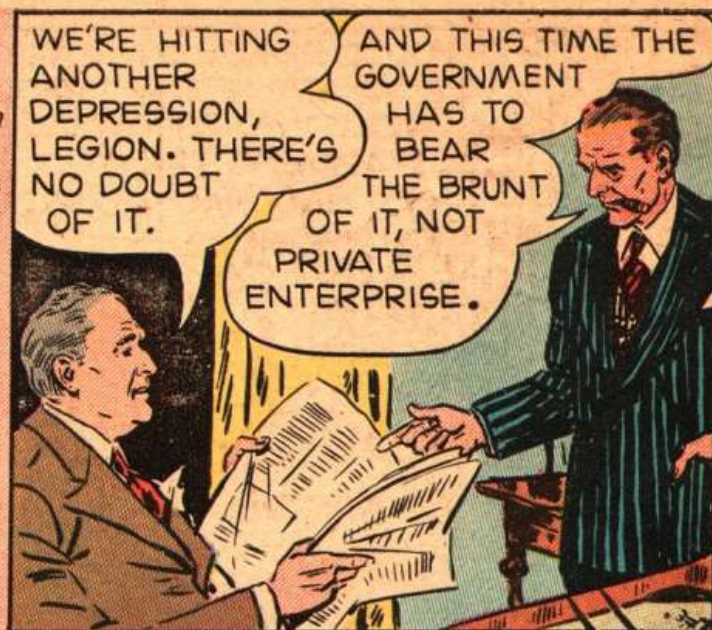
IT'S BEEN ROLLING EVER SINCE I CONVINCED MAN THAT THE THINGS OF THIS WORLD ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE THINGS OF GOD.



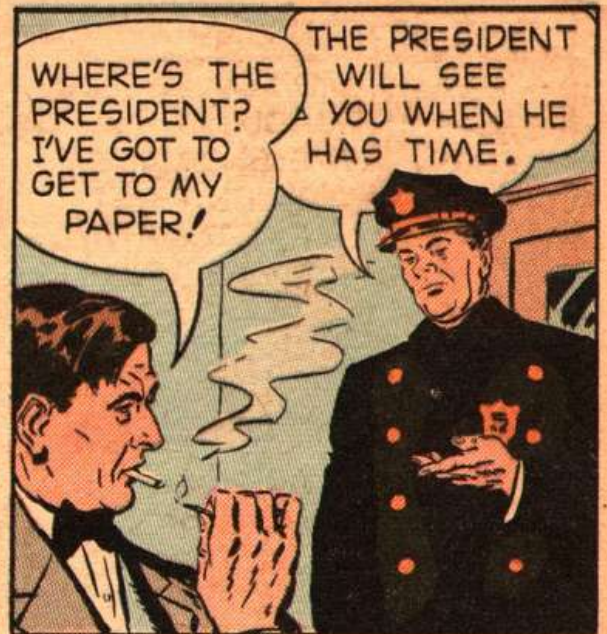


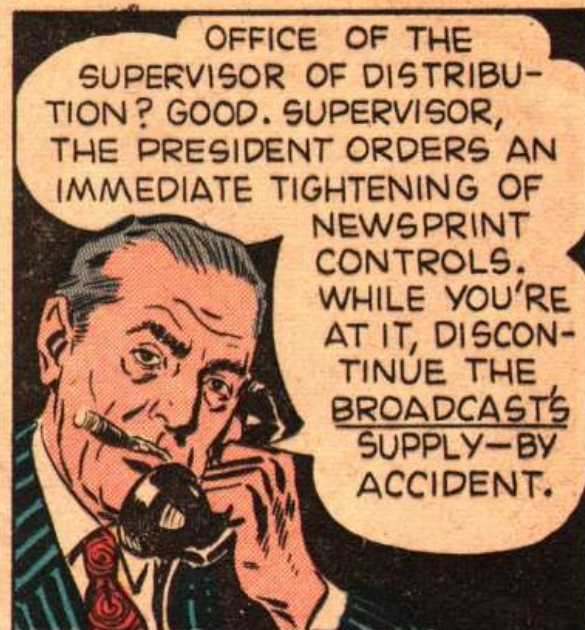


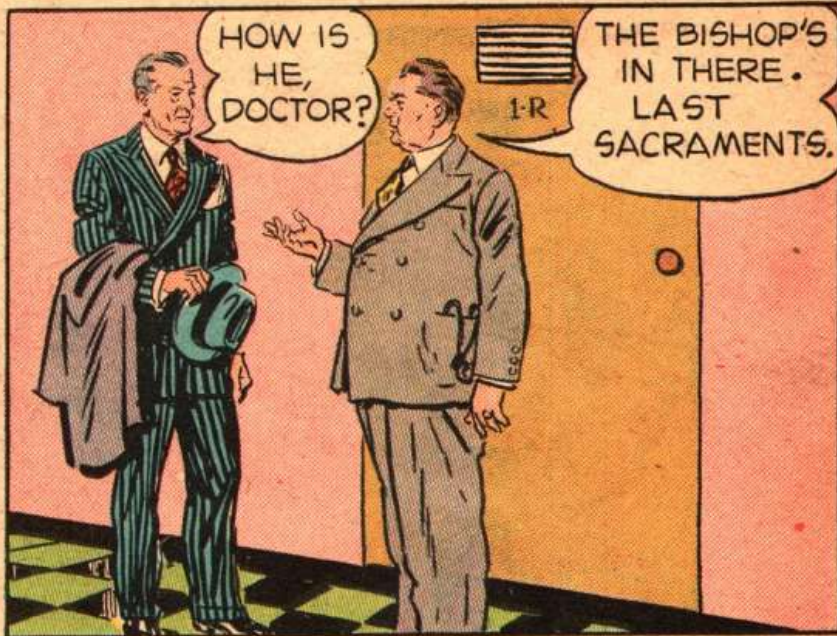
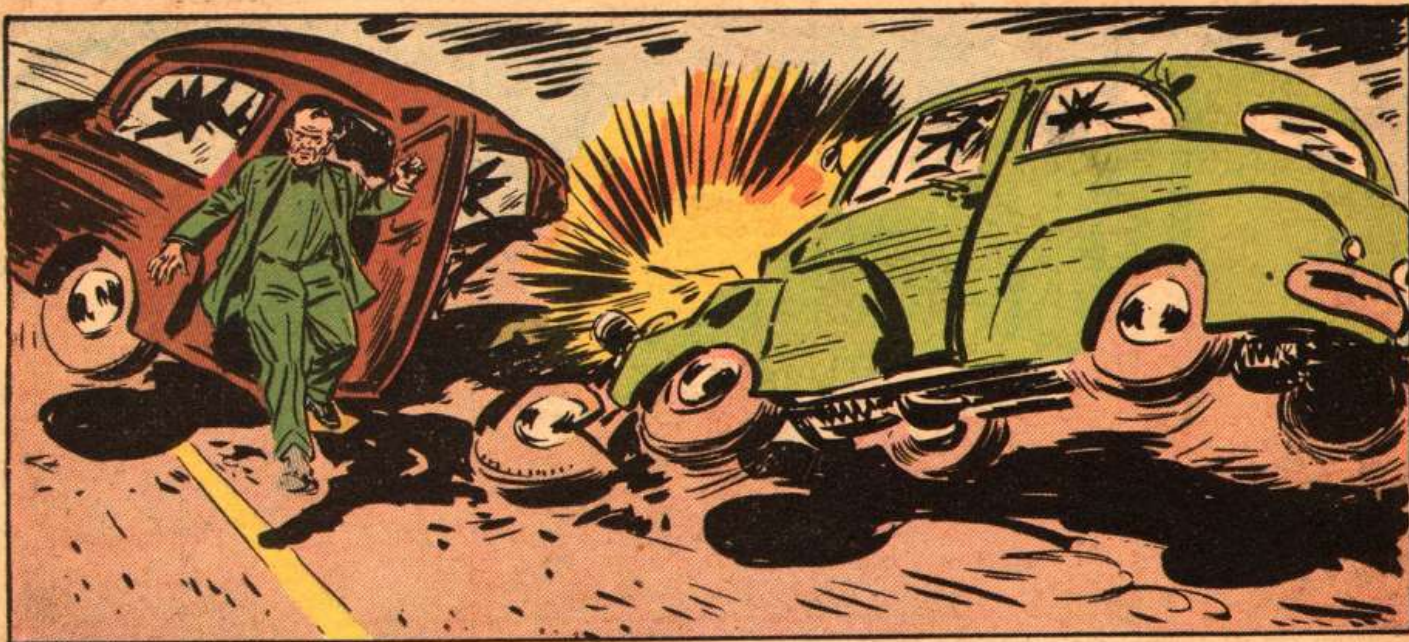


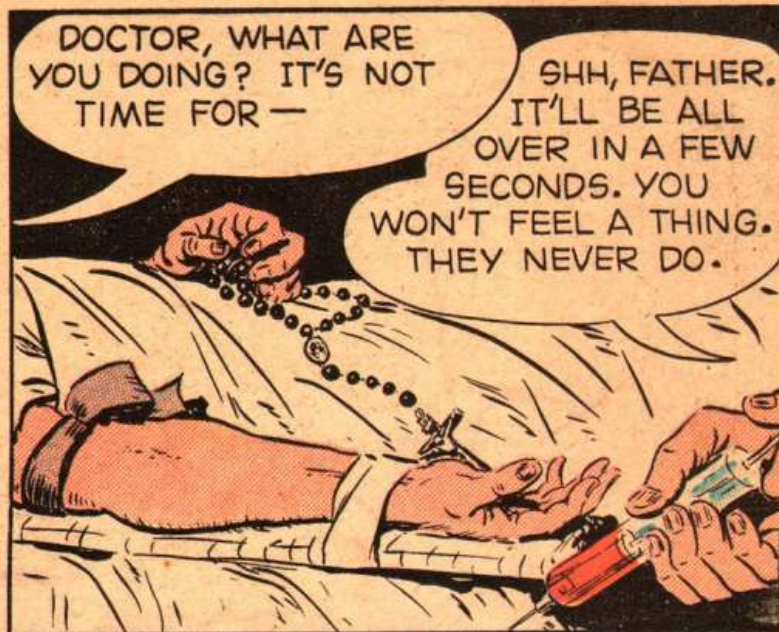
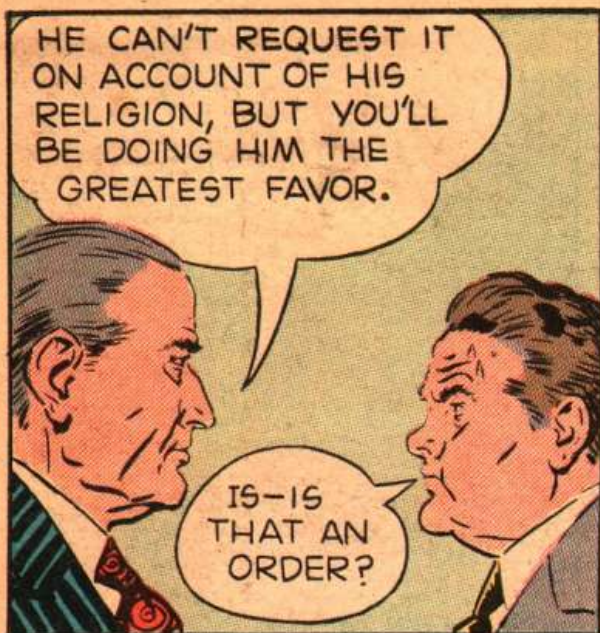


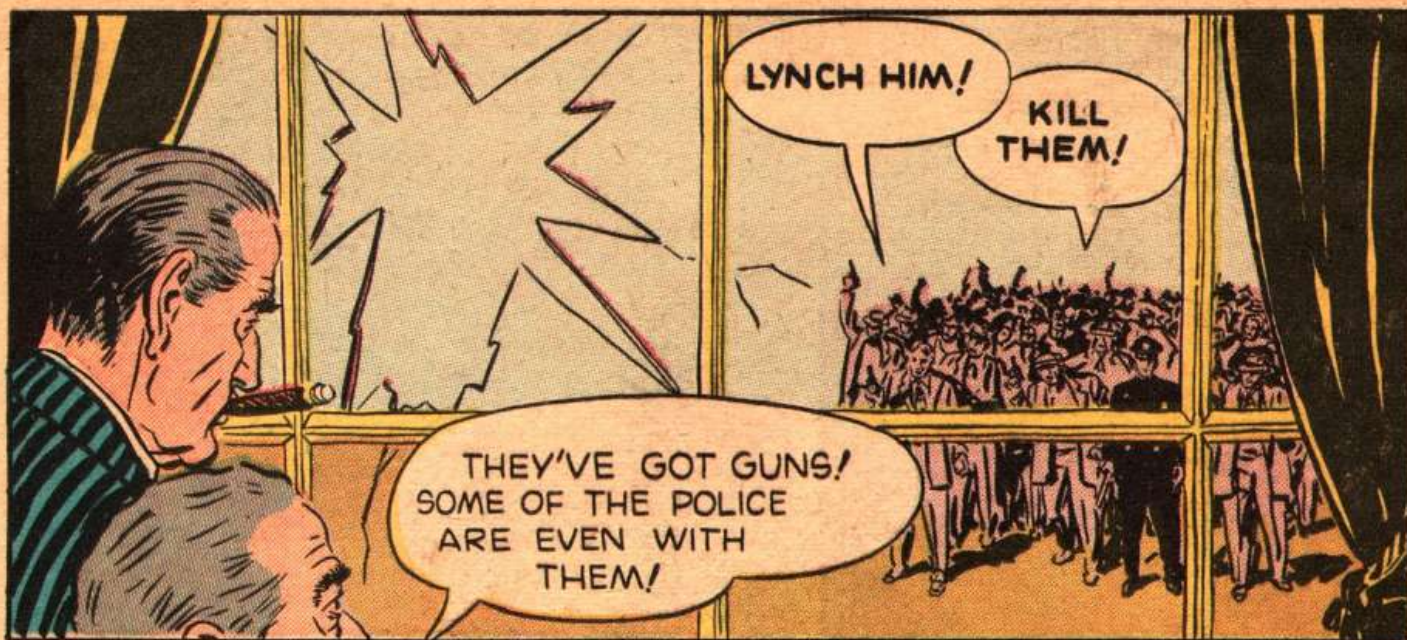














THAT'S RIGHT— SUICIDE.
SUICIDE AND REVOLUTION,
DEPRESSION AND DISCONTENT,
HATRED AND BLOODSHED!
SECULARISM HITS EVERYTHING
IN SOCIETY FROM THE FAMILY
TO THE GOVERNMENT.
NO ONE WINS
IN THE END
BUT I.



LEGION AND HIS SUICIDE
ARE ONLY SYMBOLS—
SYMBOLS OF MODERN MAN
AND THE SUICIDE OF SOCIETY
BEING BROUGHT ON BY
SECULARISM. I HAVE FOUND
NO GREATER WEAPON
FOR MY HATE. I NEVER
SHALL. UNLESS GOD IS
FIRST, ALL ELSE IS CHAOS!

WHAT AMERICAN BISHOPS SAY ABOUT SECULARISM

"Secularism, or the practical exclusion of God from human thinking and living, is at the root of the world's travail today."

EFFECT ON THE INDIVIDUAL

"The greatest moral catastrophe of our age is the growing number of Christians who lack a sense of sin because personal responsibility to God is not a moving force in their lives."

IN THE FAMILY

"Public authority and the press are constantly emphasizing our grave problem of juvenile delinquency. . . . Our profound conviction is that nothing much will ever be done about it unless we go to the root of the evil and learn the havoc that secularism has wrought in the family."

EDUCATION

"In no field of social activity has secularism done more harm than in education. In our own country secularists have been quick to exploit for their own purposes the public policy adopted a century ago of banning the formal teaching of religion from the curriculum of our common schools."

THE WORLD OF WORK

"(The Christian) faces the plain fact that there is something gravely wrong in our economic life and sees in secularism, with its disregard of God and God's law, a potent factor in creating the moral atmosphere which has favored the growth of this evil."

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

"In the international community there can be only one real bond of sane common action—the natural law which calls to God, its Author, and derives from Him its sanctions. . . .

"The tragic evil is not that our Christian culture is no longer capable of producing peace and reasonable prosperity, but that we are allowing secularism to divorce Christian truth from life."

From THE BISHOPS' STATEMENT ON SECULARISM, 1947.